

INTIMATIONS

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A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

ESTABLISHED 1841.

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NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS
that all correspondence relating to the same columns
should be addressed to THE EDITOR.
Correspondents forwarded their manuscripts
with communications addressed to the Editor, not
for publication, no evidence of good faith
for publication should be written on one
side of the paper only.

No anonymous or repeat communications that have
already appeared in other papers will be inserted.

No correspondence from Dalmatians should be
sent before 11 a.m. on days of publication.

After the supply is limited, the price of each
Telegram will be 10c. Extra charge, A.B.C. Code.

P.O. Box 83. Telephone 12-12.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, April 30th, 1890.

The Blue Book in China which arrived by the English Mail on Friday contains among other correspondence a number of despatches relating to the state of affairs on the West River, commencing with the communication from the Colonial to the Foreign Office, enclosing Sir Henry A. Blake's despatch of March 2nd reporting the increased frequency of piratical outrages in Chinese waters adjacent to Hongkong. Next we have a letter from Sir Claude Macdonald to Lord SALISBURY, in which he points out that "the Governor of Canton is singularly helpless in the matter," and says that he has brought it his duty to address the Taungli Yamen in strong terms. He encloses two letters dated November 22nd, 1889, and February 18th, 1890, in the latter of which he announces that unless immediate steps are taken by the Chinese Government, he will have to report for the consideration of the British Government the inadequacy of either having the river patrolled or placing guards on the steamers, the type of which will be made the subject of a claim to the Chinese Government. On 27th April Lord SALISBURY wrote to Mr. BAX-IRONSTONE, approving Sir Claude Macdonald's representation to the Taungli Yamen. The Col. I. Office also expressed its satisfaction at the course taken. Copies of the despatches relating to the increase of piracy were immediately sent to the Commander-in-Chief on the Canton Station.

The next letter on the subject is one from Mr. BAX-IRONSTONE to Lord SALISBURY, enclosing a translation of a despatch from the Vice-Admiral to the Admiralty at Canton to Acting Com. Fox at Shanghai, dated March 10th, 1890, in which he protests against the practice of H.M.S. Sandpiper on the West River, and claims that prompt action has always been taken by the Chinese authorities to protect British and other traders. "Now that the Admiral has sent a man-of-war to afford protection to British interests," continues this remarkable document, "this vessel will doubtless be quite capable of putting the robbers to flight." But the Viceroy orders be sent to the Viceroy of Canton to

co-operate in the measures to stamp out piracy. With a paragraph in a letter from the Vice-Admiral to the Admiralty in which he mentions the continued patrols of the river by the Sandpiper, Tased, and torpedo-boat No. 36, the Blue Bird, so far as it deals with the West River question, closes. The correspondence is most instructive and admirably illustrates the difficulty of dealing with questions of the highest importance when on one side there is Chinese passivity and on the other the apparatus of British official administration. "We shall have an opportunity of discussing the result of this labour in, we hope, the not too distant future when the proposed scheme above is laid before the public."

The tale is taken up by a despatch received by Lord SALISBURY on August 7th from Mr. BAX-IRONSTONE, mentioning the Wo-on case (which we reported in our issue of June 3rd last year) and relating that Mr. MANSFIELD had been authorized to claim for the losses of the launch-owners and employees only. The receipt is announced of a telegram from the Consul at Canton, pointing out that piracy was flourishing and that no serious attempts were being made by the Chinese to stop the outrages. "I consider, therefore," concludes Mr. BAX-IRONSTONE, "that the time has come when it is my duty to submit, for your Lordship's consideration, the advisability of Her Majesty's Government taking steps to protect British lives and property in the Canton waterways, of the nature indicated in the warnings addressed by Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD to the Chinese Government on the 18th February last."

On August 15th Mr. BAX-IRONSTONE's letter was forwarded by the Foreign Office to the Admiralty and a request was made that the Commander-in-Chief on the China Station should make suggestions as to what he could do in the matter. The letter was also forwarded to the Colonial Office. The next communication is one to Lord SALISBURY from the London Chamber of Commerce on August 16th, in which the telegram from our Chamber of Commerce is quoted to show that no reliance could be placed on the Viceroy of Canton, that piracy interfered very seriously with trade, and that more guards were necessary to protect British interests on the West River. The despatch expresses the hope that serious attention will be given to these representations. On August 21st Lord SALISBURY received a further despatch from Mr. BAX-IRONSTONE relating to the Wo-on case and endorsing Mr. MANSFIELD's report on his action in this case, in which the Consul protested that he was not exaggerating in saying that "a reign of terror exists which is seriously injuring trade." On August 22nd the Commander-in-Chief telegraphed that the Wo-on had been sent to join the Sandpiper in patrolling the river and that a torpedo-boat could be sent as tender to the Tased. At this the Colonial Office expressed its satisfaction, and telegrams passed between Lord SALISBURY and Mr. BAX-IRONSTONE on the subject. On September 3rd Lord SALISBURY received the petition from British and Foreign merchants in Hongkong to the Governor, relating to the serious losses sustained through piracy. On the same day Mr. BAX-IRONSTONE forwarded an extract from the Canton Intelligence Report for the June quarter showing that the Provincial Governor was "contemplating steps" for suppressing piratical outrages. A scheme suggested by Mr. WARREN, Instructor at the Whampoa Naval and Military School, for the formation of a flotilla of five torpedo-boats under joint command of himself and a Chinese military official, was said to have been taken up with considerable interest by the Viceroy, but to "run some risk of failing through, owing to some jealousy which exists against Mr. WARREN." Another letter from Mr. BAX-IRONSTONE relates that, as the Viceroy refused to discuss the demand for compensation in the Wo-on case, he is therefore addressing the Taungli Yamen. This he accordingly did, and his action was approved by the Government. On 6th October the Foreign Office received through the Admiralty Vice-Admiral Sir E. H. STRICKON's memorandum and a letter from Commodore POWELL, that a despatch from Sir HENRY A. BLAKE's despatch of March 2nd reporting the increased frequency of piratical outrages in Chinese waters adjacent to Hongkong. Next we have a letter from Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD to Lord SALISBURY, in which he points out that "the Governor of Canton is singularly helpless in the matter," and says that he has brought it his duty to address the Taungli Yamen in strong terms. He encloses two letters dated November 22nd, 1889, and February 18th, 1890, in the latter of which he announces that unless immediate steps are taken by the Chinese Government, he will have to report for the consideration of the British Government the inadequacy of either having the river patrolled or placing guards on the steamers, the type of which will be made the subject of a claim to the Chinese Government. On 27th April Lord SALISBURY wrote to Mr. BAX-IRONSTONE, approving Sir Claude Macdonald's representation to the Taungli Yamen. The Col. I. Office also expressed its satisfaction at the course taken. Copies of the despatches relating to the increase of piracy were immediately sent to the Commander-in-Chief on the Canton Station.

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and Governor deny China's responsibility if, owing to remissness, the British warship is not able to protect itself." China's protection to traders will be required if British men-of-war cease to come up the West River. Mr. Fox replied, pointing out that the sending of a gunboat up the West River differed in no respect from the custom prevailing for many years on the Yangtze, though there once prevailed.

As to the safety of the gunboat, he assured the Viceroy and Governor they need have no anxiety. The statements as to the prompt action of the Chinese Government in cases of piracy "does not seem," Mr. Fox said, "at the present time to be borne out by facts."

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TELEGRAMS.

DAILY PRESS SERVICE.

LONDON, 27th April, 8.40 p.m.

GREAT FIRE IN CANADA.

The town of Ottawa is afire, and thousands are thereby homeless. The fire is still raging. The cause is said to be due to incendiary. An immense area has been devastated.

THE WAR-SIR CHAS. WARREN'S POST.

Lord Roberts reports that Sir Charles Warren has been appointed Military Governor of Grigualan West in accordance with Sir Alfred Milner's request.

LONDON, 28th April, 5.20 p.m.

THE WAR.

It is officially reported that General French reached Thabachu yesterday and met Colonel Hamilton and proceeded to expel the enemy from the eastern outlet. The result is awaited. General Rundell is nearing Thabachu.

THE OTTAWA FIRE.

In the Ottawa fire a square mile was devastated. 16,000 are homeless. The loss is estimated at four millions.

MANILA, 29th April, 6 p.m.

RELEASE OF THE "BELGIKA."

The Belgia has been released. She paid a thirty thousand dollar fine.

[Details of the action about the Belgia will be found in our Manila correspondent's letter appearing in another column.]

CAPTURE OF A CELEBRATED FILIPINO.

At the Annual Meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce this evening General Otis was elected President of the General Committee for the year 1890 will be presented, comprising ladies dealing with a great variety of subjects connected with the welfare of the colony.

A Committee representative of nearly 30,000 Chinese in Manilla has sent a telegram to the Taungli Yamen "protesting in strong terms against the crimes that were being done by those barbarians, Prince Ching and King Yi, having for their object the destruction of our beloved Emperor Kuang Hui."

Maula's paper announces that General Otis will probably be sent by the Col. I. Office which was to call him back to San Francisco via Guam. His military command will be taken over by General Manchuk, who is now the Governor-General of the Department of the North, and at present is on a tour of the Islands.

The contest for the election of a representative from Cambodia to the Council, superrior of Colonies, has ended in the return by a large majority of Mr. J. M. Jordan, the former representative. The Malays have four local actions pending before the court of justice.

The trial of the Wo-on case has been adjourned to the 1st of May.

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deserve to induce them to do so. He hoped that 19 months hence when they had their annual dinner they would invite Mr. Ormsby, and that they would then have the great satisfaction of being able to congratulate him on the admirable head-quarters he would have provided for the Corps. (Applause.)

Captain BLAND, in responding to the toast of "The Army and Navy," said that in regard to "C" Company he was never more surprised than to see the way the company came out in the last examination of non-commissioned officers for efficiency and the way in which the corporals and bombardiers acquitted themselves. (Hear, hear.)

Subsequently the prizes which have been competed for during the season were presented, Sergeant Bayan getting the volley-firing prize presented by Lieutenant Stewart and Captain Baldwin the medal to which he was entitled as the winner of the "Gubbay" Cup.

Several members of the company contributed songs during the evening, Mr. A. M. Farr accompanying.

THE CITY HALL.

The following is the report to be submitted to the annual meeting of shareholders held at the City Hall, to be held at 4 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the 1st of May.

The last annual meeting was held on the 23rd January, 1899.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF.

Since the last meeting the Hon. J. J. Kewick has returned to the colony and resumed his post of Chairman on the departure of the Hon. J. J. Bell-leying. The Committee have reported with much regret the loss sustained by the sudden death of Mr. H. L. Duley, who has been a member of the Committee for 22 years. Mr. H. E. Pollock has been appointed to fill the vacancy. The Committee now consists of the Hon. J. J. Kewick (Chairman), Messrs. H. N. Mott, B. Layton (Hon. Treasurer), N. A. Sibley, and H. E. Pollock. Mr. H. L. Dennis (Secretary, &c.) went home on leave in June.

THE STATE OF THE BUILDING.

The building was thoroughly inspected by the Architects, Messrs. Palmer and Turner, in October, 1899, and they report all the main timbers to be in a sound condition. Sundry subsidiary timbers principally in the verandahs, had to be renewed on account of the attacks of white ants, and one of the small domes required extensive repairs from the same cause.

The whole of the exterior of the building has been scraped and colour-washed, and all the verandahs repaired and varnished at a total cost of \$1,000 (including architect's fees).

This expenditure falls to the present year's account.

The expenditure on repairs during the twelve months ending 30th June, 1899, amounted to \$1,888.66, including \$700 contributed towards the alterations in the Theatre referred to in the last report, to which the Amateur Dramatic Club contributed a similar sum.

The interior of the Theatre, the halls, staircase and entrance halls will soon require to be re-decorated.

Owing to the heavy expenditure on alterations and repairs during the year ending June 30th, 1899, the year's expenses exceed the receipts by a small sum.

USE OF THEATRE, ETC.

During the twelve months from 1st July, 1898, to 30th June, 1899, the Theatre was engaged by the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club, the School's Sports Committee, the Dramatic Company of H.M.S. *Powerful*, the Dalmatian Comedy Co., Messrs. Dallas and Musgrave, and others. The St. Andrew's Hall was used for concerts and musical entertainments and the Ball Room, after 1st Sept., for several Balls. The St. Andrew's Hall and other rooms were as usual placed at the disposal of educational and charitable establishments for examinations, prize distributions and bazaars, free of charge.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.

A fine portrait of Her Majesty the Queen has, through the generosity of Sir Thomas Jackson, who presented the picture to the Hongkong community, been placed in St. George's Hall.

The portrait was unveiled by H.E. the Governor at the St. Andrew's Ball on 30th November, 1899, in the presence of one of Her Majesty's grandsons, H.H. Prince Henry of Prussia, and the other guests of the St. Andrew's Society, and it now adds greatly to the appearance of the Hall.

THE LIBRARY.

The proprietors of the Government Gazette, the Daily Press, the China Post, the Hongkong Telegraph and O'Farrell's Orient have to be thanked for continuing to supply their journals gratis to the Library. Sir G. Carrington, Colonial Wheeler, Doherty and Morris, Fife and H. L. Dennis have kindly contributed books to the Library, to which Mr. H. L. Dennis has also lent over 200 volumes dealing with China and the Chinese. The Hongkong Club supplied books number of the *Times*, and Mr. H. Allen's *Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper*. Various volumes of literary works published in Hongkong have been supplied by Government, of these the majority are educational or didactical pamphlets in Chinese or Latin published by the various missions in Hongkong.

About 7,000 persons visited the Library during the twelve months under review. The Library is now open until 11 p.m. for all nationalities every day of the week except Sunday, and is likely to prove a convenience to many people. Mr. Pollock and other friends have to be thanked for books and pamphlets contributed by them. Mr. Pollock has also generously promised to contribute a sum of \$500 towards the purchase of standard works for the Library.

THE MUSEUM.

The Museum has been kept up as usual, want of funds and space preventing its development or improvement. The Hon. R. E. Bell, Capt. Chichester, R.N., Dr. Atkinson, Messrs. C. Ford, N. G. Hart, Gale, Denry, Beyer, Edward Mounsey, Cattaneo, H. L. Dennis, Bertie Sayer, James Mitchell, Wai Teit Sing and Wong Kam Fook and Miss Barker have to be thanked for presenting or lending various interesting specimens, including an Insurgent's cannon from the Philippines Islands, an antelope and numerous birds and snakes. An Atlas moth kindly presented by Capt. Hall produced a large family which was carefully reared in the Museum and resulted in the addition of a number of fine specimens. During the year 9,462 Europeans, Americans and other non-Chinese, and 11,676 Chinese, visited the Museum.

ACCOUNTS.

The balance in the hands of the Hon. Treasurer on 30th June, 1899, when the accounts up to 30th June, 1899 were closed, was \$2,706.55, as appears by the accounts annexed, showing a loss on the year's working of \$35.65. There is also a reserve fund consisting of \$13,621.60 on fixed deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, including interest up to 24th June, 1899.

The total receipts show a falling off from the previous year owing to the smallness of the number of travelling companies visiting the colony.

J. J. KESWICK,
Chairman,
City Hall Committee.

Account Shows Balance in the Permanent Fund
1st July, 1898 to 30th June, 1899
To balance in hands of Treasurer as shown by
last report 2,742.23
To receipts from Theatre, Ball
Room, St. Andrew's Hall, &c. & \$5,259.05
To rent of Chamber of Commerce 661.00
To Government Grant for 1899 1,200.00
Interest on current account in Hongkong
and Shanghai Bank to 30th June, 1899 4.00
Interest on current account in Hongkong
and Shanghai Bank to 30th June, 1899 4.00
\$10,813.38

NOT BEYOND HOPE.

Those who have suffered year after year with Rheumatism will be glad to hear of a remedy that has proved an absolute specific. There are no conditions of Rheumatism no matter how severe nor from what cause, that cannot immediately be relieved and permanently cured by Little's Oriental Balm. People who have tried a hundred remedies, liniments, and doctors are apt to be resigned to their fate. They come to believe that there is no such thing as a cure for Rheumatism. They have been disappointed so many times that another trial seems almost useless. To all such we say try Little's Oriental Balm faithfully and patiently and you will soon rejoice at the return of your precious health. Many a person was cured through Little's Oriental Balm by the use of a single bottle, others have used from 3 to 6 bottles to obtain the same result. It is only very rare and exceedingly obtrusive cases we are necessary. Sold at Re. per bottle.

Agents for Hongkong—The VICTORIA
DISPENSARY, Ltd. 11753—

By salaries and wages for 12 months to 30th July, 1899 5,838.40	\$	
By rents and alterations general 1,255.65		
By hire of Altering Theatre 790.00		
By Gas 1,124.24		
Gas light 322.32		
Mus. light 333.82		
Mus. light, gas expenses 701.09		
Government pay brigade 61.75		
By water 72.45		
	5,137.33	
By balance in hands of Treasurer July, 18.9 2,705.55		
	\$10,813.38	

THE UNITED STATES AND THE "OPEN DOOR" IN CHINA.

The correspondence relative to the "open door" policy in China which the United States has been conducting with the Government of Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, Italy, and Japan, has been published on 20th ult. in letters from 6th last to 20th ult. Mr. Hay, the author, communicated with the United States representatives in the countries abiding, notifying those of the desire of the United States relative to the "open door."

The President understands that it is the settled policy and purpose of Great Britain not to use any privilege received from China to exclude any commercial rivals. The United States Government cannot conceal their apprehensions that such a result would be greatly aided and advanced by declarations or the thunders of complications arising between the Treaty Powers which may impair the rights assured to the United States by treaty.

The United States Government hope to retain China as an open market for the world's commerce, to remove dangerous sources of international irritation, and thereby hasten united action by the Powers at Peking to promote administrative reforms so greatly needed for strengthening the Imperial Government and maintaining the integrity of China, in which the United States believe the whole Western world is also concerned. The United States Government believe that such a result would be greatly aided and advanced by declarations or the part of the Powers claiming spheres in China respecting their intentions with regard to the treatment of foreign trade and commerce in these spheres, and the United States Government consider that the present is a very favourable moment for informing Great Britain of the desire of the United States that Great Britain should make a declaration on her own part and lead her powerful support in the effort to obtain from each Power having spheres a declaration to the effect that it will in no wise interfere with any treaty port or any vested interest within any so-called sphere of interest or leased territory that it may have in China; that the Chinese Treaty tariff of the time being shall apply to all merchandise landed or shipped in all such parts as are within such spheres unless they be free ports, no matter to what nationality they may belong, and that duties so levied shall be collected by the Chinese Government; that the Power approached will levy no higher harbour dues on vessels of another nationality frequenting any port in such sphere as shall be levied on vessels of its own nationality, nor any higher railroad charges over lines built, controlled, or operated in its sphere on railroads belonging to citizens or subjects of other nationalities that are levied on similar railroads belonging to its own citizens. The President has strong reason to believe that Russia and Germany will co-operate in the proposed understanding.

Mr. Cheape also referred to Russia and Germany having declared that Wei-hai-wei and Kiaochow respectively were open ports.

On 30th November, Lord Salisbury wrote to

Mr. Cheape as follows:

Foreign Office, Nov. 30, 1899.

Your Excellency.—With reference to my note of Sept. 29 last, I have the honour to state that I have carefully considered, in communication with my colleagues, the proposal contained in your Excellency's note of Sept. 23, that a declaration should be made by foreign Powers claiming "spheres of interest" in China as to their intentions in regard to the treatment of foreign trade and interests therein.

I have much pleasure in informing your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to make a declaration in the sense desired by your Government in regard to the leased territory of Wei-hai-wei, and all territory in China which may hereafter be acquired by Great Britain, by lease or otherwise, and all spheres of interest now held, or which may hereafter be held, by her in China provided that a similar declaration is made by

Mr. Cheape.

SAFETY.

To this Mr. Cheape replied on Dec. 6—

American Embassy, London, Dec. 6, 1899.

My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's note of Nov. 29, in which you informed me that, after having carefully considered, in connection with your colleagues, the proposal contained in my note of Sept. 22 last, Her Majesty's Government is prepared to make a declaration in the sense desired by the Government in regard to the leased territory of Wei-hai-wei, and all territory in China which may hereafter be acquired by Great Britain, by lease or otherwise, and all spheres of interest now held, or which may hereafter be held, by her in China provided that a similar declaration is made by other Powers. In acknowledging your Lordship's note I have also, under instructions from the Secretary of State, to express to your Lordship the gratification he feels at this cordial acceptance by Her Britannic Majesty's Government of the proposals of the United States.—I am, &c.

JOSEPH H. CHOATE.

In the note to whom reference is made by the latter's assurance that America's treaty privileges would not be infringed or impaired, and it was remarked that the declaration was presented for the approval of Germany because it might be thought that serious conflicts of interest might at any time arise, not only affecting British and German subjects, but also jeopardizing the interests of Americans.

On Dec. 4 Mr. Jackson, Secretary of Embassy at Berlin, cabled that Germany would not raise any objection. Count von Bülow wrote later confirming his verbal assurance to Mr. Jackson.

RAISIN.

To this Mr. Cheape replied on Dec. 6—

American Embassy, London, Dec. 6, 1899.

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NOW READY.

CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
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Tientsin, 1858; Conventions, 1866, 1871, and

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United States—Tientsin, 1858; Additional,

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Japan—Shimonoseki, 1855; Convention, 1855;

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Russia—St. Petersburg, 1881; Russian Land

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Agreement, 1883.

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Great Britain—1894; Duties Convention, 1895.

Russia—Agreements as to Corea; United

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TREATIES WITH SIAM.

Great Britain—1856; France, 1893; Japan,

1893; Russia, 1899.

Great Britain and France, Siam-Burma Frontier.

Great Britain and Russia, Railway Convention,

1892.

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China, Japan, Siam, Corea.

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Orders in Council for Government of H.B.M.'s

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W. J. SAUNDERS,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 29th April, 1900.

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EDWARD OSBORNE,
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Hongkong, 12th May, 1899.

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EDWARD OSBORNE,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 11th April, 1900.

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EDWARD OSBORNE,
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Hongkong, 12th April, 1900.

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